

Bulgaria has more than 1,300 years of history, culture and tradition in Western Civilization. Its ancient forefathers were the Thracians, whom Herodotus described as the second largest tribe in the Ancient world. And its unique ethnic identity, religion, and culture remain vibrant, even after five centuries under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and another two centuries under Byzantine rule.

In modern times as in ancient ones, Bulgaria has been torn by conflict. The nation gained full independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1878, and its people suffered through the first and second Balkan Wars in the early part of the 20th century. Even as the nation fell behind the Iron Curtain after World War II and gained a reputation as the Soviet Union's staunchest ally in the Warsaw Pact, our two nations still maintained diplomatic ties throughout the most difficult periods of the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, today U.S. relations with Bulgaria have never been stronger. Since 1989, Bulgaria has transformed into a vibrant democracy and market economy. Our two nations have become steadfast partners in business and industry. Our strong ties to Bulgarian culture and education are invaluable and have proven mutually beneficial to both countries. On behalf of my constituents in Northwest Chicago, including more than 1,500 of Bulgarian descent, I applaud this centennial of diplomatic relations and look forward to continuing strengthened partnerships.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I urge support for the resolution. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 355.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

#### EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THE MURDER OF SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANNA LINDH

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the resolution (H. Res. 372), expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 372

Whereas Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh was brutally attacked by an unknown assailant on the afternoon of September 10, 2003;

Whereas Ms. Lindh died the next morning after undergoing surgery performed in a desperate attempt to save her life;

Whereas Ms. Lindh's murder is an attack on the freedoms and tranquility enjoyed by the people of Sweden;

Whereas Ms. Lindh was elected to the Swedish Parliament in 1982, was appointed Minister of the Environment in the government of Prime Minister Goran Persson in 1994, and rose to the post of Foreign Minister in 1998;

Whereas Ms. Lindh demonstrated dedication to the causes of human rights and environmental responsibility as a leader in the Swedish Government;

Whereas at the time of her death, Ms. Lindh was campaigning for Sweden to adopt the European common currency in a referendum which took place just a few days after her murder;

Whereas Ms. Lindh was widely recognized as an advocate of freedom and peace in Europe and throughout the world;

Whereas this is the second time the Swedish people have suffered the loss of a respected national leader as Prime Minister Olaf Palme was murdered in a similar manner in 1986; and

Whereas such senseless acts of violence are a threat to democracy and to civilized society wherever and whenever they occur: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of Sweden and the family of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh following her tragic and untimely murder;

(2) condemns all senseless acts of violence against public officials;

(3) urges the President to provide all appropriate assistance that may be requested by Swedish law enforcement officials as they pursue the perpetrator of this heinous act; and

(4) expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Sweden and the Swedish Government at this difficult time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this Member rises in support of H. Res. 372 expressing the

condolences of the House in response to the death of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. As my colleagues will recall, Foreign Minister Lindh was senselessly attacked and murdered on September 10, 2003.

This Member commends the author of this resolution, his good friend and the ranking Democrat of the Committee on International Relations, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for introducing this expression of our heartfelt sympathy to the people of Sweden on the loss of their foreign minister.

Although this Member did not have the pleasure and honor of meeting Foreign Minister Lindh, it is widely recognized that she represented the very best of Sweden. She was a strong advocate for her country as its leading diplomat.

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Ms. Lindh possessed a passion for human rights and justice and was committed to world peace.

Throughout her tragically-shortened political career, Anna Lindh served as the head of the Social democrats youth movement, entered Parliament in 1982, became environment minister in 1994, and began serving as Foreign Minister in 1998. Many knowledgeable persons speculate that she would have been eventually serving as Sweden's Prime Minister.

As Foreign Minister, she worked tirelessly to promote a more active Sweden in international affairs and within the European Union. Over the past year, she became one of Sweden's strongest advocates for joining Europe's single currency.

Anna Lindh worked to have Sweden and NATO cooperate on defense matters, and she actively supported the admission of the Baltic states into both NATO and the European Union. And, of course, under her leadership, Sweden enjoyed friendly relations with the United States.

Madam Speaker, by her death, the people of Sweden, and of the world, have suffered the loss of a respected national leader.

In closing, the Member strongly urges passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 372 and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

If it were not a violation of House rules, I would be pleased to recognize the presence in the Chamber of the distinguished Ambassador of Sweden, but since it is, I shall not do so.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to my lead cosponsors, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) and the many other cosponsors supporting this legislation.